

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

8 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. The ability of the French government to maintain order in Algeria is in doubt

- a. The loyalties of the French army to De Gaulle's policy in Algeria remain in doubt and there is uncertainty over the government's ability to contain OAS terrorism successfully. The French Air Force Chief of Staff told Ambassador Gavin that he believes the Army is in a "rather dangerous condition" and that Algiers itself is "completely out of control."

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- b. Salan,

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not expect to defeat the Moslems, he is trying to cow them into submission by threatening that the Algeria left to them after the struggle will "be that of 1830 in which we have destroyed everything."

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2. Laos

a. Following discussions with American representatives in Vientiane yesterday, Boun Oum agreed to collaborate in trying to persuade Phoumi to enter Souvanna's government. Emphasizing Phoumi's concern for the army, Boun Oum said it should be made clear to Souvanna that until integration had taken place the army command structure should remain intact--presumably, with Phoumi in command. Meanwhile, the western ambassadors continue juggling names for a cabinet.

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Phoumi was still trying to find some way to hold southern Laos rather than submit to US pressure to join a Souvanna government.

3. King Saud returns home to pressing problems

[redacted] he must repair 50X1 his fragmented Council of Ministers, which fell apart during his absence. He must also cope with a strident Egyptian propaganda campaign that appears to be having some effect on his subjects. This, added to reports of Egyptian assassination plots, will make UAR relations an early matter for action. While a full break is possible, Saud may decide against it rather than lose the needed contribution being made by Egyptian doctors, teachers, construction technicians and administrators.

4. Berlin access

a. The USSR filed flight plans for two transports in the northern corridor this morning, both outbound. Both flights were completed without incident. Yesterday the British protested Soviet fighter harassment of one of their flights.

b. Two US army convoys moved in opposite directions yesterday between Berlin and West Germany without serious incident.

(For the conclusions of the Special USIB Subcommittee on Berlin, see Documents of Interest.)

NOTES

- A.
- B. Tshombé, still interested in assurances of his safety, has now set 15 March for his meeting in Leopoldville with Adoula.
- C. A New Delhi newspaper reports that Krishna Menon may be appointed Indian Foreign Minister.
- D. The Conference of Independent African States, originally scheduled to be held in Tunis in April, has been postponed until November as only three of the invitees have replied.
- E. Turkey has notified South Korea that it will not withdraw its troops, as had been planned.
- F. The Dutch have agreed not to transport troops to New Guinea by KLM flights via Tokyo.
- G. Troop train movements in East Germany in January and February indicate that the annual rotation of Soviet troops in East Germany, normally carried out in the fall and possibly delayed because of the Berlin situation, has been under way since January.
- H. We have no official word on the major South Vietnamese military drive against the Viet Cong reported in the press.

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--7 March 1962

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

No Sino-Soviet Bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

BERLIN: Soviet probing tactics against Allied access to Berlin will probably continue, but Bloc military activity in general suggests that the Communists do not expect their actions to provoke military confrontation in the immediate future.

LAOS: The tempo of military activity continues at a relatively low level, although the Communist forces continue to improve their logistical situation. Neither side is likely to undertake major hostilities while the current round of talks is in progress.

SOUTH VIETNAM: The Viet Cong are continuing to expand the number and size of their guerrilla actions against government forces, including occasional battalion-size attacks. Continued Bloc criticism of US military assistance to South Vietnam suggests that the Communist Bloc may increase its efforts to assist the Viet Cong with materiel assistance.

NATIONALIST CHINA:

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE